

BIOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL - 208
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
MEDICAL CENTER

November 1, 1960

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics
Stanford University
Medical Center
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

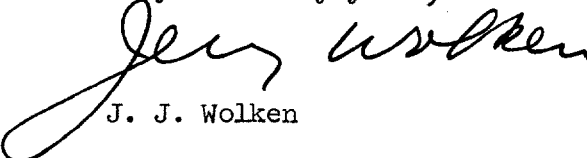
Thank you for your letter of October 24th, inquiring about the design and use of the microspectrophotometer that we have developed in our Laboratory. I am enclosing a reprint from Science, "A simplified microspectrophotometer," which covers, in a preliminary way, the optical and electrical characteristics of the instrument. The microspectrophotometer is presently being redesigned and the stage adapted for low and high temperature studies. We hope to make it completely automatic eventually. The instrument has been used in our laboratory for the study of pigments (chlorophylls, carotenoids, cytochromes) in living cells. Some of these results are to be published soon in Nature, Exptl. Cell Research, and J. Protozool., and we will send you reprints as soon as they are available. Under separate cover, I am also sending several reprints of our previous studies on pigments and photosynthesis that may be of interest to you.

Regarding your question of technical assistance, this is more difficult, but I will communicate your needs to any interested technically qualified person. Our laboratory staff is small; however, postdoctoral fellows in physics, chemistry, biophysics and biology spend from one to two years here, and then usually return to the institution from which they came. I am optimistic that such an arrangement could be worked out with a qualified person from your laboratory whom you wished to spend a year here, working in our area of photobiology and learning the machinery.

I am very much interested in your consideration of the basic biological problems of microorganisms and outer space--thanks so much for your most exciting reprint from Science. I do think it would be advantageous if we could discuss this whole problem further. If I can be of any help in the future, do not hesitate to let me know.

With all best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,


J. J. Wolken

JJW:mf
encl.